SYLLABUS –Paleobiology/Stratigraphy – Fall, 2025 (4 units)
Geology 4390 Tuesdays 2-4:50, Online Synchronous

Dr. Julia Sankey, Emeritus (Retired) Professor: Paleobiology/Geology/Climate Crisis, Department of Geology, California State University, Stanislaus; https://www.csustan.edu/people/dr-julia-sankey

Email: Jsankey@csustan.edu; **Zoom meeting room**: https://csustan.zoom.us/j/7833094218
(We are not using Canvas in this class. Just zoom and email).

Course Description and Learning Objectives: Paleobiology is the study of ancient life. Stratigraphy is the correlation of sedimentary units using rocks, fossils, and geophysical techniques. These fields include some of the most interesting topics in Geology such as mass extinctions, interpretation of past climates, reconstruction of past environments, all relevant to the environmental and climatic crisis happening on Earth today.

In this class, you will learn about:

1)Past climates, environments, and life on Earth

2)Evolution and extinctions of life on Earth

3)Methods used to determine this information

4)Stratigraphy and various dating techniques

Prerequisites: This is a required upper division course for geology majors. The prerequisites are: GEOL 2100, 2102, 2200, and 2202. If you have NOT taken (and passed) these courses, please see me after the first day of class.

Classwork:

1) Lecture notes, questions, discussion, attendance:

We will meet together in my zoom room starting at 2 pm each week. Your active participation in the zoom portion of the class is extremely important and is required.

Each week there will be class lectures, in class writing assignments, student mini-presentations, and student discussion/questions.

You must be in a quiet room, seated with your computer and notebook, with a good internet connection, and be ready to write and talk in each class.

You should have your video on so that I can tell whether you understand the lecture/discussion. This is best practice in a zoom class.

1)Lecture notes: Students will take handwritten notes on our weekly lectures in a notebook. Students will also write answers to in class questions in their notebooks. You will use these lecture notes in assignments in the class. Lectures are not recorded.

After each week's lecture, students will take a photograph of their notes and answers to questions. They will email me this as an attachment using their CSUS email.

Email to: Jsankey@csustan.edu.
Subj line: 4390.Lastname.notes.

2)Questions: I will call on students to answer questions on the lecture or the homework assignment.

3)Student Discussion: Many weeks there will be small group discussions with your classmates in break-out rooms with specific questions to discuss.

4)Attendance: Attending and participating in the class is an essential part of this class and is required. Arriving on time and staying the entire time is important and required. Roll call is taken at the start of class (2 pm).

One unexcused absence is allowed. Any additional absence must be a documented emergency. If you have a documented emergency (car accident, illness, etc) and cannot attend class, email me and attach documentation of the emergency (delete personal information first).

Class Participation Grade based on:
1)Lecture notes complete.
2) Thorough answers to in class questions.
3) Good participation in small group discussions with your classmates;
4)Attendance; On time.

15 pts/week: All 4 criteria met

0 pts: Not acceptable

I record your participation grade after each class. Typically students get these points. However, if something was missing or inadequate, I will email you asap and let you know how to improve this part of your grade.

15 pts each week x 13 weeks: 195 pts (30% of grade)

2) Weekly Homework/Lab Assignments:

There will be weekly homework assignments for the first 10 weeks of the semester. Each are worth 25 pts. These will be reading and video assignments, with questions. I will email these homework assignments to you each week. You will submit them to me by the deadline via email. You will have 6 days to complete your homework assignments.

Assignments will take you approximately 5 -8 hours total each week. You will spend your lab period (any day/time, 2.75 hrs) plus a few more hours each week doing these lab and homework assignments.

There are 10 total homework assignments. One missed homework assignment is allowed. All others must be completed.

If you have a documented emergency (car accident, illness, etc) and cannot submit your homework, email me and attach documentation of the emergency (delete personal information first) and you can submit it after the due date (with permission first).

25 pts: Answered all questions. Accurate information. Thoughtful comments. Well written. Followed format instructions.

0: Not acceptable

Homework grades: I will email you back your homework grade and brief comments within a week.

10 homework assignments x 25 pts each: 250 pts (39% of grade)

3) 2 Mini-Powerpoint Presentations (25 pts each): 50 pts (8% of grade).

Each student will do two mini-PowerPoint presentation for the class (5 minutes) this semester. I will email you details of the assignment and the student presentation dates in a separate handout.

25 pts: Accurate information. Well presented. 0: Not acceptable

4) Student Research/Action Project & Final PPT Class Presentation: 150 pts total (23% of grade):

An important part of the class will be the student research/action project. Details in separate handout.

Estimate of total points possible: ~ 645 pts
(Any changes will be announced in class or via email. You are responsible for all information on this syllabus, on all assignments given out in class, and on all modifications announced in class.)

Grading: 93%+ = A; 90%+ = A-; 87%+ = B+; 83%+ =B; 80%+ = B-; 77%+ = C+; 73%+ = C; 70%+ = C-; 67% = D+; 63%+ = D; 60%+ = D-; below 60% = F

Students who do not attend and participate in class or do not submit their homework (and on time) will be dropped from the class.

Honesty: Cheating, plagiarism, copying others' work, using A.I., and other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with severely. Don't do it. You are all honorable people, but cheating of any sort is cause to receive a 0 in the course. If a student does not follow these rules, students will meet with the Dean of the College of Science. If necessary, further action will be taken with the Office of the Dean of Students.

Office Hours: I am available for zoom office hours. The best time is right after our zoom class. However, email me if you need a different appointment time.

Disabilities: Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities who are registered with the Office of Disability Resource Services, ext. 3159. Please schedule an appointment with me early in the semester to discuss accommodations for this course that have been approved by the director of the Office of Disability Resource Services.

Important Dates:

Tues. Nov. 11: No class: Veteran's Day

Tues. Nov. 25: Thanksgiving week off

Tues. Dec. 9: Student Research presentations in class. Last day of class.

Campus Resources (Thanks to my Geography colleague, Dr. Alison McNally for compiling and sharing this list):

Remote Learning Resources (https://www.csustan.edu/spring/students/remote-learning-resources)
Visit this website to access information related to remote learning, including technology support, internet access, and Canvas/Zoom/Moodle help. If you need to check out technology (including computers), visit this link: https://www.csustan.edu/oit/tech-request

University Library (https://library.csustan.edu/**)**

Tutoring Center (https://www.csustan.edu/learning-commons/tutoring-center**):**
Tutoring is available at no charge for enrolled CSU Stanislaus students. For any of your courses here, if you feel that tutoring will help, please call the tutoring center (209) 667-3642 or visit their website for more information.

University Writing Center (https://www.csustan.edu/writing-center**):**
The University Writing Center is a valuable resource for helping to develop writing skills. There is no charge for enrolled students. Please feel free to make an appointment by calling (209) 667-3642, or visiting their website.

Disability Resource Center (https://www.csustan.edu/disability-resource-services**):**
Students with disabilities should work with the Disability Resource Services office on campus to ensure that they are provided necessary accommodations for a successful learning environment. Students should also make their condition known to the Instructor at the beginning of this course to enable the Instructor to accommodate their specific needs. If there is any other personal situation which might impede your performance in this course please let your instructor know. If an unexpected situation that might negatively impact your performance in the course arises during the semester let your instructor know in a timely manner. Do not wait until the end of the semester! Disability Resource Services office: (209) 667-3159.

Psychological Counseling Services (https://www.csustan.edu/counseling**):**
The Psychological Counseling Services office provides students with confidential, professional counseling to enrolled CSU Stanislaus students at no charge. To schedule an appointment you may visit the Student Services website or call 209-667-3381.

Health Center (http://www.csustan.edu/health-center**):**
This outpatient clinic is funded solely through student health fees that cover all visits and many services, and is located east of the Student Union. Most registered CSU Stanislaus students are eligible for health care at the Student Health Center. They are conducting in person and telehealth appointments.

Warrior Food Pantry (https://www.csustan.edu/student-affairs/warrior-food-pantry**):**
The Warrior Food Pantry was established to provide non-perishable food items and some toiletries to students at no charge (up to 10 items per week – bring your Warrior ID). The Food Pantry is located in the Student Support Building (near the University Bookstore), room 128 on the Turlock campus, and there is a pop-up Food Pantry on the Stockton Campus. Fall hours vary – visit the Food Pantry for an updated schedule. There are also dates for Food Box distribution this fall – dates are listed on this website: https://www.csustan.edu/basic-needs/food-distribution. These are supported by the CSU Stanislaus Basic Needs program, which has other resources available to students. Visit their website here for a complete overview: https://www.csustan.edu/basic-needs.

COVID-19 Resources
Please visit the campus COVID-19 website for updates and resources regarding COVID-19
https://www.csustan.edu/covid-19